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(C) URBAN INTELLIGENCE BRIEF KURGAN, U.S.S.R.



AUGUST 1965

WARNING



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3

PREFACE

The Urban Intelligence Brief is a concise digest of all-source intelligence required for strategic and high-level operational planning. It is designed to provide consumers with intelligence that cannot be sanitized for use in collateral urban area studies. The brief provides all-source intelligence annotations keyed to a mosaic of [redacted] photography; data on vegetation, functional divisions, and building density of the urban area are provided by small inset maps. Aspects of the urban area that are not readily apparent on the mosaic are highlighted in the summary-type narrative.

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I. PHYSICAL ASPECTS

Location: Kurgan is located on the east side of the Ural Mountains in western Siberia, 255 kilometers east of Chelyabinsk and 361 kilometers southeast of Sverdlovsk.

Geographic orientation: Kurgan is situated at the northern edge of the fertile, wooded steppes of western Siberia on a flat, poorly drained flood plain and low terraces of the Tobol River. The site has an elevation of approximately 79 meters, and the gently sloping terraces along the eastern edge of the flood plain range in elevation from 76 to 100 meters. Local permanent marshes contain peat deposits 1 to 2 meters thick. Soils in the flood plain are subject to annual inundation and are saturated most of the year. The water table remains within a few meters of the surface except in late summer and fall when drying occurs to several meters. The city is underlain by 20 to 30 meters of interbedded and interlensed alluvial deposits of sand and clay with some lenses and beds of gravel. Below these deposits lie about 50 meters of unconsolidated and poorly consolidated sediments of clay and sand. Vegetation near the city consists of grasses, shrubs, and some cultivation; forests of pine, birch, and aspen occur in the surrounding areas.

Climate: Long, dry, severe winters and hot, dry summers are characteristic. The coldest month (February) has a mean minimum temperature of -12.3°F.; the warmest month (July) has a mean maximum temperature of 79.1°F. The average annual precipitation is approximately 31 centimeters, two-thirds of which falls from May through September. Mean dates for the formation and disappearance of stable snow cover are 11 November and 11 April, respectively.

II. SIGNIFICANCE

Kurgan is of primary importance as a growing industrial city with a diversified economic base. The main industrial output is in the fields of machine building, motor vehicles, and chemicals. The gross industrial output has reportedly increased 50% in the past 3 years. Products manufactured in Kurgan are not only used throughout the U.S.S.R., but are also exported to Bloc and non-Bloc countries; such exports have reportedly increased 700% in the past 8 years. One of the largest, if not the largest, bus assembly plant in the U.S.S.R. is located here. Other fields of national significance are in the construction of road machinery, heavy farm implements, chemical equipment, woodworking machines and grain elevator equipment. Kurgan is also the capital of Kurganskaya Oblast'. This rapidly developing urban area has shown a growth in population from approximately 53,000 in 1939 to an estimated total of 200,000 in 1964.

III. UTILITIES, SERVICES, FACILITIES

Water supply: Water is believed to be provided both from the Tobol River and a reservoir west of the city. The filtration plant located on the north bank of the river in the southern part of Kurgan probably supplies at least part of the town through distribution lines. A dam has reportedly been constructed across the Tobol River to raise its water level, and therefore increase the water supply; this dam has not been positively identified, but it may be co-located with a bridge (see mosaic, numbered item 27). The growing water demands in Kurgan are believed to be now satisfactorily met for developing its industrial production and for improving living conditions.

Sewage disposal: A municipal sewage system was reportedly put into operation in 1959. Details on the extent of service or type of facilities provided are not currently available.

Hospitals: Hospitals include a city hospital with a 175-bed capacity, an [redacted] with a bed capacity of 230, an anti-aircraft [redacted]

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Sewage disposal: A municipal sewage system was reportedly put into operation in 1959. Details on the extent of service or type of facilities provided are not currently available.

Hospitals: Hospitals include a city hospital with a 175-bed capacity, an Oblast' hospital with a bed capacity of 230, an anti-tuberculosis dispensary with 200 beds, a children's hospital with 100 beds, and a hospital for railroad workers (exact locations of these facilities are undetermined). Other hospitals undoubtedly exist since Kurgan is the capital of the Oblast'. The city has a medical school, and there are reportedly about 500 doctors and 3,000 other medical workers in the city. The larger industries probably contain at least some dispensary facilities, if not hospitals.

Electric power: Electric power for the urban area is believed to be adequately met by the Kurgan Thermal Powerplant with an estimated capacity of 300,000 kilowatts and a small thermal plant with an estimated capacity of 5,000 kilowatts.

Gas: A gas pipeline system has been reported under construction which will supply housing areas, but the source, type of gas, and proposed extent of the system are not presently known.

Telecommunications: Kurgan has telecommunication facilities which include telegraph, television, and broadcasting stations, a military weather reporting station, automatic telephone exchange, and a total estimated number of four Civil Air radio transmitters. Landline communications consist of 18-channel cable connections with Moscow and Novosibirsk, and open-wire connections with Moscow, Vladivostok, and Peski. Telephotographic communications are also available with Moscow. A TV tower is reported in the eastern part of the city, but it cannot be identified at present; in the future this tower is to become an integral part of a radio-relay link reported under construction from Sverdlovsk to Kurgan.

Internal and external communications:

Internal: Public transportation is provided by a bus system with at least 185 buses in service. The first three trolleybus routes were under construction in 1964; the proposed extent of this system is not now known. Taxi services are also available.

External: Railroad - Kurgan is on the electrified double-track railroad between Chelyabinsk and Petropavlovsk, and has a single-track connection via Shadrinsk to Sverdlovsk. Yard facilities located alongside the double-track railroad through the urban area include a forwarding and receiving yard (5 tracks), sorting yard (10 tracks), and a repair yard (12 tracks); there are also 5 or 6 railway repair shops in the area. Highway - Four highways radiate from the urban area, connecting with Chelyabinsk, Shadrinsk, Petropavlovsk, and Zverinogolovskoye. Airline - Kurgan is on a scheduled (daily, each way) civil air route between Alma-Ata and Sverdlovsk, as well on the Chelyabinsk - Tomsk and Moscow - Tomsk scheduled (three-times weekly, each way) routes. Kurgan also has intra-oblast' flights, scheduled and non-scheduled, connecting it with its various rayons. Inland waterway - Since the construction of a reported dam on the Tobol River, it is now supposed to be navigable for a distance of 90 kilometers upstream.

Pipeline - Pipelines in the area include a petroleum products line from Urbakh to Kurgan and then probably on to Atbasar.

96

Storage: Kurgan is a State Reserve Storage Base for three categories of products (grain, food, and miscellaneous materials), and storage facilities are considerably more extensive than for the city itself. Commercial and industrial warehouse storage in Kurgan is also extensive. A cold storage facility with a capacity of 2,300 tons has been reported in the Kurgan area, but it has not been identified. Capacity of the military warehouses is undetermined, but known to be limited. POL storage of undetermined capacity is located at Kurgan Airfield, and a small storage area with 18 tanks (total estimated capacity 37,000 barrels) has been identified in the east-central part of the city.

Billeting: A possible military barracks of undetermined capacity is located at the western edge of Kurgan.

IV. INDUSTRY

Kurgan has a diversified industrial base and several industries of national importance. Many of the industrial installations are relatively new, while some of the older plants have been expanded. Identification of the products manufactured at several industries shown on the mosaic cannot be made due to an absence of corroborating information; however, available photography leaves no doubt that a large industrial complex is developing. Exports of machinery and machine equipment to foreign countries, Bloc and non-Bloc, has reportedly increased 700% in the last 8 years. The Kurgan Bus Assembly Plant has only been in operation for approximately 8 years, but it has a current annual output of 6,500 buses and is one of the largest, if not the largest, industries of its kind in the U.S.S.R. This plant has also turned out special vehicles of a type used for seismic surveys of geological prospects. Other industrial plants of national prominence include the Kurgan Agricultural Machinery Plant (heavy farm implements), the Kurgan Road Machinery Plant (a manufacturer of seven different types of road construction and maintenance machines), a woodworking machine tool plant (lathes, joiners, markers, etc.), the Kurgan Chemical Machine Building Plant, and the Kurgan Elevator Equipment Plant (machinery for grain elevators and grain receiving points). Much of the current production of equipment for grain elevators is shipped to virgin lands in northern Kazakhstan. The Kurgan Medical Preparations Plant is a producer of antibiotics for poultry and livestock. A motor vehicle repair works capable of handling 1,500 vehicles yearly has reportedly gone into service. Kurgan is also reported a principal producer of prefabricated concrete construction materials; the Kurgan Construction Parts Combine which consists of ferroconcrete, cellular concrete, and wood processing plants, may be a large contributor to the city's prominence for such materials. The Kurgan Electrical Engineering Plant manufactures transformers and fittings; it is reported to have started production of a prototype prefabricated transformer substation with a capacity of 100 - 1,000 kilowatts. Industries of local significance in the urban area manufacture or process mostly consumer goods such as felt boots, furniture, leather, and flour.

V. EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTIONS AND OTHER FACILITIES

Kurgan has an estimated total of 40 educational facilities. Of these, there are specialized schools for medicine, agriculture, machine building, railways, and trade.

VI. MILITARY ASPECTS

Military facilities identified include a possible barracks area, a weather station, and warehouses.

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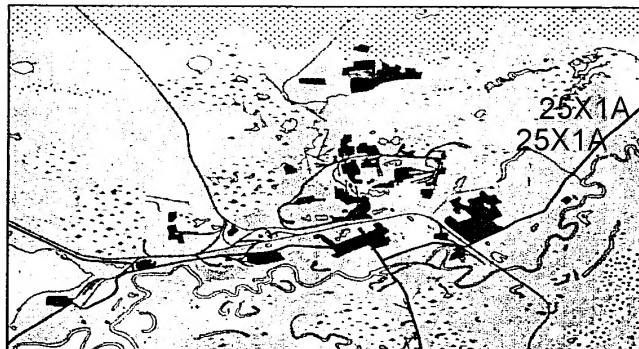
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URBAN INTELLIGENCE BRIEF

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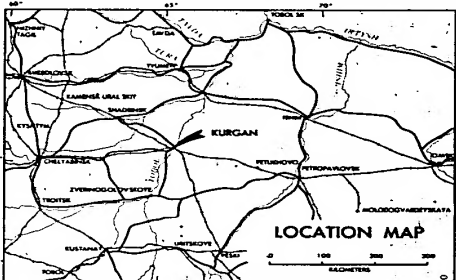
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VEGETATION AND BUILT-UP AREA DENSITY

- EVERGREEN, PREDOMINANTLY PINE
- DECIDUOUS, PREDOMINANTLY BIRCH AND ASPEN
- CULTIVATION
- GRASSLAND AND SCRUB
- MODERATE (30% TO 40% ROOF COVERAGE)
- SPARSE (1% TO 30% ROOF COVERAGE)

0 1 2 KILOMETERS



LOCATION MAP

0 100 200 KILOMETERS

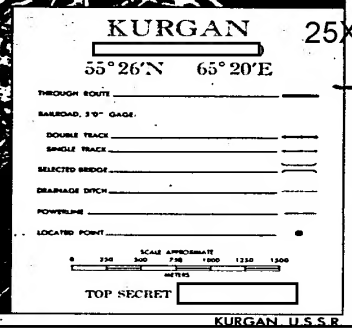
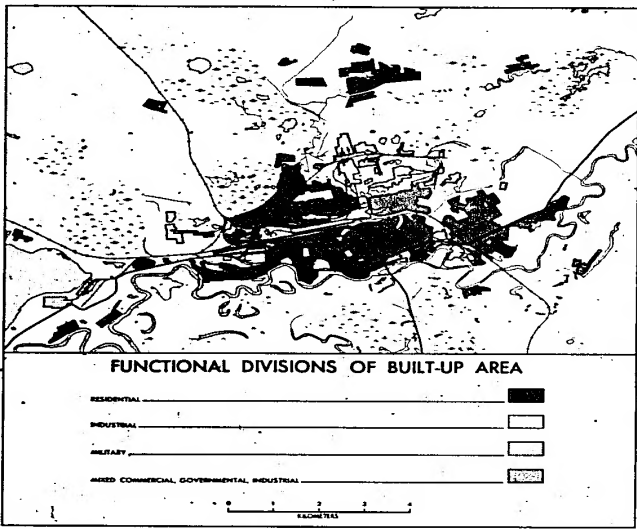
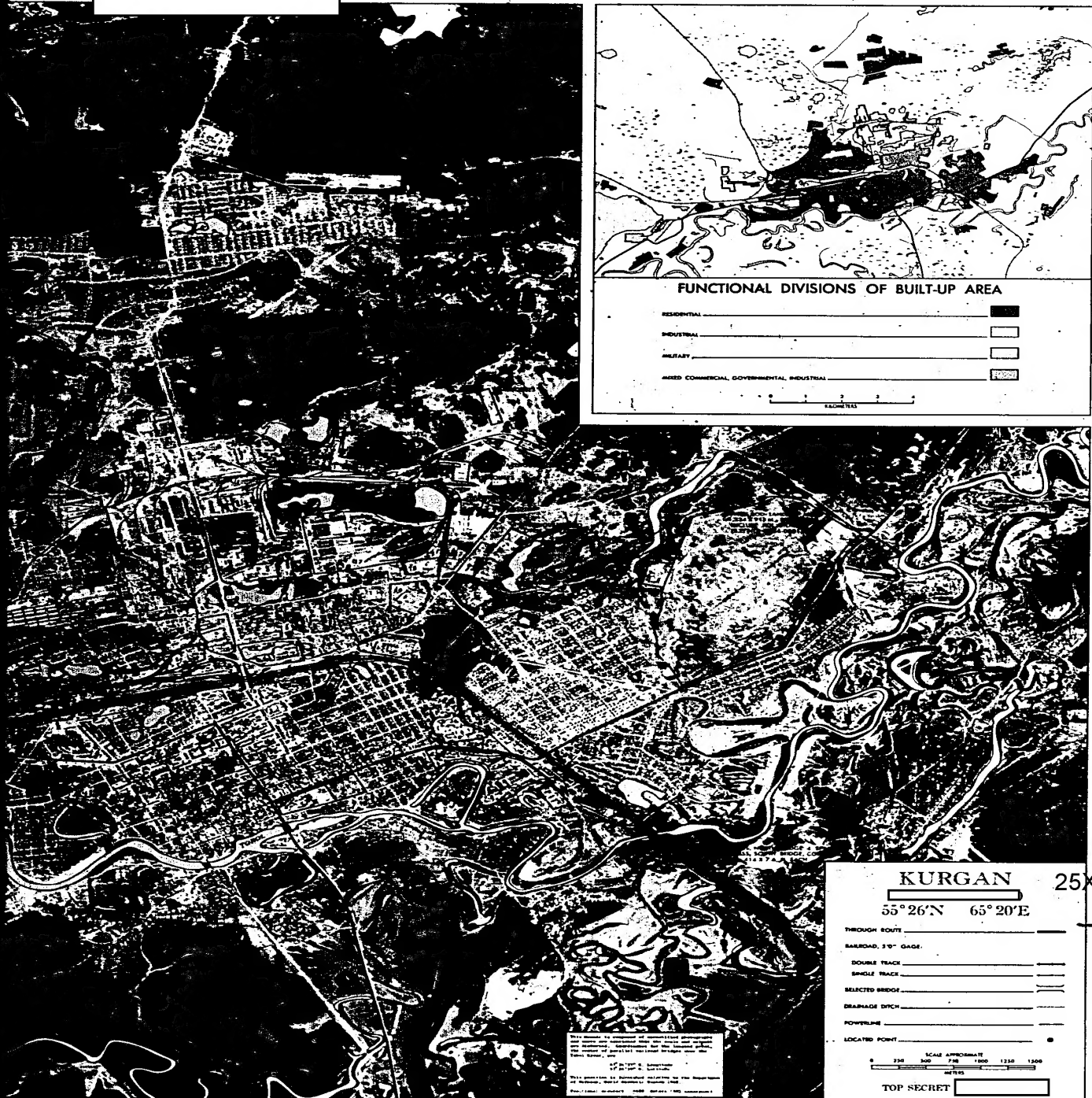
- 1. PROBABLY MILITARY BASES
- 2. UNIDENTIFIED INDUSTRIAL
- 3. AIR/CENTRAL WAREHOUSE PLANT
- 4. STATION
- 5. WATER FILTRATION PLANT
- 6. THERMAL POWERPLANT, CAP. 3,000 KW
- 7. RAILROAD YARD AND DEPOT
- 8. RAILROAD STATION
- 9. WAREHOUSE
- 10. WAREHOUSE
- 11. WAREHOUSE
- 12. WAREHOUSE
- 13. WAREHOUSE
- 14. UNIDENTIFIED OBJECT
- 15. OVERPASS, RAILROAD JCN, 305 M.; SPAN OVER RAILROAD 46 M., NORTH APPROACH 117 M., SOUTH APPROACH 112 M.
- 16. ONE BUILDING PLANT
- 17. UNIDENTIFIED OBJECT
- 18. WAREHOUSE
- 19. PROBABLE MOTOR VEHICLE REPAIR SHOPS
- 20. MEAT-CANNING COMPLEX
- 21. FUEL STORAGE, 18 TANKS
- 22. RAILROAD
- 23. GOVERNMENT CONTROL CENTER
- 24. ROAD WAREHOUSE PLANT
- 25. PEDIAGOGICAL INSTITUTE
- 26. ROAD BRIDGE, BRICK-TYPE, 43 M.
- 27. ROAD BRIDGE, BRICK-TYPE, AND POSSIBLE DAM, 82M.
- 28. MEDICAL INSTITUTE, PROBABLE LOCATION
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- 30. STATION
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KURGAN, U.S.S.R.